

Senate File 10 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 10

BY SCHOENJAHN and BEALL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act authorizing a school district to adopt and implement a
2 policy addressing sexual abuse of children and establishing
3 a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children
4 and including effective date provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **279.50A Policy to prevent sexual**
2 **abuse of children.**

3 The board of directors of a school district may adopt and
4 implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children that may
5 include any of the following:

6 1. An age-appropriate curriculum for students enrolled in
7 prekindergarten through grade five.

8 2. Training for school personnel on child sexual abuse.

9 3. Educational information for parents and guardians that
10 may be provided in the school handbook and may include the
11 warning signs of a child being abused, along with any needed
12 assistance, referral, or resource information.

13 4. Available counseling options and resources for students
14 affected by sexual abuse.

15 5. Emotional and educational support for a child of abuse to
16 continue to be successful in school.

17 6. Methods for increasing teacher, student, and parent
18 awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse of children,
19 including but not limited to knowledge of likely warning signs
20 indicating that a child may be a victim of sexual abuse.

21 7. Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse
22 should take to obtain assistance and intervention.

23 Sec. 2. **TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF**
24 **CHILDREN.**

25 1. A task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of
26 children is established consisting of the following members:

27 a. Four members of the general assembly serving as ex
28 officio, nonvoting members, with not more than one member from
29 each chamber being from the same political party. The two
30 senators shall be appointed one each by the majority leader
31 of the senate after consultation with the president of the
32 senate and by the minority leader of the senate. The two
33 representatives shall be appointed one each by the speaker
34 of the house of representatives after consultation with the
35 majority leader of the house of representatives and by the

1 minority leader of the house of representatives.

2 b. The director of the department of human services or the
3 director's designee.

4 c. The director of the department of education or the
5 director's designee.

6 d. The director of the department of public health or the
7 director's designee.

8 e. The state court administrator or the state court
9 administrator's designee.

10 f. A representative of the Iowa county attorneys
11 association, appointed by the president of that association.

12 g. A representative of the chief juvenile court officers,
13 appointed by the chief justice of the supreme court.

14 h. A representative of a statewide professional teachers'
15 organization, appointed by the president of that organization.

16 i. A representative of a different statewide professional
17 teachers' organization, appointed by the president of that
18 organization.

19 j. A representative of an organization involved in the
20 prevention of child abuse in this state, appointed by the
21 director of the department of human services.

22 k. A representative of an organization representing school
23 administrators in this state, appointed by the president of
24 that organization.

25 l. A representative of an organization representing the
26 boards of school districts in this state, appointed by the
27 director of the department of education.

28 2. Members of the task force shall be individuals who are
29 actively involved in the fields of child abuse prevention
30 covered by child welfare. To the extent possible, appointment
31 of members shall reflect the geographic diversity of the state.
32 The members of the task force shall serve without compensation
33 and shall not be reimbursed for their expenses.

34 3. The director of the department of education, or the
35 director's designee, shall convene the organizational meeting

1 of the task force. The task force shall elect from among
2 its members a chairperson. Meetings shall be held at the
3 call of the chairperson or at the request of two or more task
4 force members. Six members shall constitute a quorum and the
5 affirmative vote of six members shall be necessary for any
6 action taken by the task force.

7 4. The department of education shall provide staff support
8 to the task force.

9 5. The task force shall consult with employees of the
10 department of human services, the Iowa coalition against sexual
11 assault, the department of public safety, the state board
12 of education, and any other state agency or department as
13 necessary to accomplish the task force's responsibilities under
14 this section.

15 6. The task force shall make recommendations for preventing
16 the sexual abuse of children in Iowa. In making those
17 recommendations, the task force shall do the following:

18 a. Gather information concerning child sexual abuse
19 throughout the state.

20 b. Receive reports and testimony from individuals, state
21 and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
22 public and private organizations.

23 c. Create goals for state policy that would prevent child
24 sexual abuse.

25 d. Submit a final report with its recommendations to the
26 governor and the general assembly on or before January 16,
27 2012. The recommendations may include proposals for specific
28 statutory changes and methods to foster cooperation among state
29 agencies and between the state, local school districts, and
30 other local governments.

31 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
32 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill authorizes each school district to adopt and
35 implement a policy addressing sexual abuse of children and

1 establishes a task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of
2 children in Iowa.

3 The policy school boards may adopt and implement may
4 include an age-appropriate curriculum for students enrolled
5 in prekindergarten through grade five; training for school
6 personnel on child sexual abuse; educational and other
7 information for parents and guardians; available counseling and
8 resources for students affected by sexual abuse; and emotional
9 and educational support for a child of abuse to continue to be
10 successful in school.

11 Any policy adopted may address without limitation methods
12 for increasing teacher, student, and parent awareness of issues
13 regarding sexual abuse of children, including but not limited
14 to knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child
15 may be a victim of sexual abuse; actions that a child who is
16 a victim of sexual abuse should take to obtain assistance and
17 intervention, and available counseling options for students
18 affected by sexual abuse.

19 The task force on the prevention of sexual abuse of children
20 consists of four members of the general assembly serving as ex
21 officio, nonvoting members; the directors of the departments of
22 human services, education, and public health or the directors'
23 designees; the state court administrator or the state court
24 administrator's designee; a representative of the Iowa county
25 attorneys association; a representative of the chief juvenile
26 court officers; a representative of two different statewide
27 professional teachers' organizations; a representative of an
28 organization involved in the prevention of child abuse in
29 this state; a representative of an organization representing
30 school administrators in this state; and a representative of
31 an organization representing the boards of school districts in
32 this state.

33 The members of the task force serve without compensation and
34 shall not be reimbursed for their expenses. The department of
35 education shall provide staff support to the task force.

1 The task force shall consult with employees of the
2 department of human services, the Iowa coalition against sexual
3 assault, the department of public safety, the state board
4 of education, and any other state agency or department as
5 necessary to accomplish the task force's responsibilities.

6 The task force shall make recommendations for reducing child
7 sexual abuse in Iowa and in making those recommendations shall
8 gather information concerning child sexual abuse throughout the
9 state; receive reports and testimony from individuals, state
10 and local agencies, community-based organizations, and other
11 public and private organizations; create goals for state policy
12 that would prevent child sexual abuse; and submit a final
13 report with its recommendations to the governor and the general
14 assembly on or before January 16, 2012. The recommendations
15 may include proposals for specific statutory changes and for
16 methods to foster cooperation among state agencies and between
17 the state, local school districts, and other local governments.
18 The bill takes effect upon enactment.